

statement in recognition of the Justice for Congo Victims and Congo Reforms Peace Convention hosted at University of Texas at Arlington. I would like to express my gratitude to Richard Millsap for asking me to participate in this Peace Convention. I would also like to thank those of you who were involved in making this event happen and all of the participants who have taken time out of their schedules to be a part of such a momentous conference.

I have been a longtime advocate for peace and diplomacy over armed conflict. As many of you know, I began my A World of Women for World Peace initiative in 2001. Throughout my time in office, I have seen first-hand the pillage of war. Shortly after experiencing the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, I saw on the cover of Newsweek magazine, two boys from Liberia who were 12 and 14 years old dressed in military gear with machine guns, and I just thought enough was enough. I wondered how our world had come to this place of aggression, and I knew that I had to do something to be a part of bringing a culture of peace to the world.

My efforts started with women who are the mothers of young boys like the ones I saw on the cover of that magazine, whose lives are sacrificed in the name of war. We must recognize and empower these women to facilitate peace-building, peacemaking, and peace-keeping activities across the world. We must also recognize the experts and leaders who help us to plant the seeds of peace.

I recently participated in my A World of Women for World Peace conference in Taipei, Taiwan, where we discussed ways to build peace through culture. One panelist in particular spoke about the necessity of compassion and healing the wounds of civil wars and genocides before peace can be achieved on the ground. I strongly believe that this is the case in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The global community must recognize the tragedies of the Congo before the Congolese people can truly move forward to a place of peace. Thank you for allowing me to provide written remarks and I hope you have a productive Peace Convention.

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of this week's 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law July 26, 1990.

This milestone piece of legislation marked a positive step forward in affording Americans with disabilities the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It represented a significant change in national anti-discrimination laws, making discrimination against Americans with disabilities in the private sphere illegal, and requiring reasonable public accommodation. However, there is still work to be done to improve the lives of Americans with disabilities. Some still trail the population in many economic indicators, as they are twice as likely to be poor and one-fifth as likely to be em-

ployed. The ADA was a major step toward ensuring economic independence.

In my district, the Disability Student Support Services project at Queens College was recently awarded a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will help fund that program. This program aids a group of 100 students in their studies at Queens College, and provides them the support they need to ensure that they graduate.

I would like to commend my constituent, Charmaine Worthy, for her efforts in the CUNY system serving disabled students. As the University Coordinator of Student Activities, she has worked tirelessly to empower CUNY students. Thank you, Ms. Worthy, for your important work. You are a shining example of the importance of giving back to one's community.

Educational and economic gaps that persist between disabled Americans and their peers shrink through people like Ms. Worthy, institutions like CUNY, and the grants that fund these important programs.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOS COMMUNITY SERVICES

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SOS Community Services for its 45th anniversary. For 45 years, SOS has worked to end homelessness for families in Washtenaw County by providing resources and support to the community. As a result of their dedicated service and their mission to promote housing stability and self-sufficiency, SOS has immensely bettered Washtenaw County.

SOS Community Services was started in 1970 by students and faculty at Eastern Michigan University. Originally, the group provided a 24-hour crisis phone line to EMU students. It has grown into an effective and critical non-profit organization committed to ending familial homelessness in all of Washtenaw County.

SOS Community Services provides a wide range of services and support. They run a food pantry, provide temporary shelter and rehousing services, and work with families to find employment, pursue further education, and after-school and tutoring programs for children and young people. They also provide struggling families with everyday necessities such as utility assistance, bus tokens and access to computers and phones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor 45 years of ardent service to their community. With compassion and respect, vital services are provided to maintain and raise the quality of life for approximately 4,700 people. I look forward to seeing further inspiring work from SOS Community Services.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TYLER WILLIAM BECK

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Tyler William Beck for his service to my office and to the people of California's 21st Congressional District.

Tyler Beck was born in Salinas, California on September 14, 1991 to Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Alice Beck. Tyler and his two younger brothers, Zachary Beck and Benjamin Beck, grew up in Hanford, California, where they reside today.

Prior to high school, Mr. Beck attended St. Rose McCarthy for his elementary and middle school education. In 2006, he began high school at Hanford High School, where he graduated in 2010. Following his primary education, Mr. Beck attended the College of the Sequoias Hanford as well as West Hills College Lemoore.

Throughout his college education, Mr. Beck has served California's 21st Congressional District as an Administrative Assistant in my Hanford, California office. Mr. Beck's commitment to public service and strong ties to the community have made him an invaluable asset to my team.

Friday, August 21, 2015 will be Mr. Beck's last day as a member of my staff. With a passion for agriculture and teaching, Mr. Beck will be attending Fresno State University. While I am proud of his academic ambition, Tyler will be greatly missed by my entire team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Tyler Beck for his public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing him the very best as he begins this exciting chapter of his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAT BODDY

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pat Boddy for being named a 2015 Woman of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Ms. Boddy started a career in journalism after moving from the St. Louis area to Des Moines. After working at WHO radio, where she found her passion for environmental engineering, she attended Iowa State University. It was there that she graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Engineering and